

Answering the AT Question – Yes it should be in the IEP



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Don McMahon, Ph.D. and Aleksandra Hollingshead, Ed.D



Agenda for today:

Assistive technology myth-busting!



Additional Resources:

A recording from a more comprehensive webinar:

<https://exceptionalchildren.org/webinar/assistive-technology-process-iep-development>

Legal Definition of Assistive Technology

any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

New AT Guidance tackles 28 AT Myths in Five Categories

1. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
2. Common Myths and Facts about Assistive Technology Devices and Services
3. Common Myths and Facts about Deploying Assistive Technology Devices and Services
4. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
5. Common Myths and Facts about Assistive Technology Costs and Funding Sources

Myth 1. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part B Of The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

MYTH

Assistive Technology (AT) should only be considered at some individualized education program (IEP) Team meetings.

FACT

Each time an IEP Team develops, reviews, or revises a child's IEP, the IEP Team must consider whether the child requires AT devices and services.

Myth 2. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part B Of The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

MYTH

Providing AT devices and services is optional under IDEA and an LEA does not have to provide AT devices and services if there are no funds available.

FACT

IEP Teams must consider AT devices and services for all children with IEPs and must provide and fully fund the AT devices and services if they are necessary.

Myth 3. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part B Of The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

MYTH

Providing an AT device to a child with a disability satisfies the IDEA's AT requirements.

FACT

IDEA requires IEP Teams to consider whether a child with a disability needs AT devices and services.

Myth 4. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part B Of The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

MYTH

An AT evaluation must be conducted prior to providing an AT device and service to a child with a disability.

FACT

An AT evaluation can be included as an AT service for a child but is not required under the IDEA.

Myth 5. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part B Of The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

MYTH

Children can learn to use an AT device on their own; educators have no obligation to provide training to a child or to their family.

FACT

It is the responsibility of the LEA to ensure that the child with a disability, parents, and educators know how the AT device works through AT services.

Myth 6. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part B Of The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

MYTH

Specific AT decisions do not need to be included in the written IEP document.

FACT

IDEA requires the IEP to include a statement about a child's special education related services and supplementary aids and services.

Myth 7. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part B Of The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

MYTH

AT does not need to be considered as part of the secondary transition process.

FACT

AT should be considered for inclusion in a child's transition plan as AT devices and services create more opportunities for that child to be successful.

Myth 8. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part B Of The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

MYTH

AT cannot be used for participation in State academic assessments.

FACT

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires States to provide the appropriate accommodations, which includes the use of AT devices

Myth 9. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

AT always involves an electronic device and is always high-tech.

FACT

Many AT devices or tools may be computer-based but items like visual schedules and calendars, binder clips, squishy balls, or stickers may also be considered AT.

Myth 10. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

AT devices and services should only be considered for children with certain disabilities.

FACT

AT must be considered for all children with IEPs and can play an important role in the provision of FAPE, regardless of the type of disability. AT has been proven to be effective for children with a variety of disabilities.

Myth 11. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

AT devices and services are only needed for the academic classroom and only for use at school.

FACT

A learner's AT device should be used across all environments to both improve the child's use of the AT as well as to ensure the child is provided their required support throughout the day.

Myth 12. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

An AT device and service that works for one child will work for all children.

FACT

AT devices and services need to be responsive to a child's individualized needs.

Myth 13. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

Accessible technology and AT are the same thing.

FACT

Accessible technology and AT are not the same. Accessible technology is a term used to describe technology that is designed in a way to support many different users, while AT is a term that describes a piece of technology that is selected to perform a specific task for an individual child with a disability.

Myth 14. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

AT, universal design, universal design for learning (UDL) and accessible educational materials (AEM) are the same thing.

FACT

AT, universal design, UDL and AEM each have their own unique purpose and definitions under Federal law.

Myth 15. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

Using AT devices and services will not improve child's outcomes.

FACT

Research demonstrates that use of AT devices and services improves child's outcomes in all settings.

Myth 16. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

The use of AT devices lowers a child's motivation because it does the work for them.

FACT

Research shows that AT increases a child's motivation to complete assignments.

Myth 17. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

If a child doesn't want to use AT, a teacher doesn't need to follow up to model and encourage the child to use the AT.

FACT

If a child does not want to use an AT device, it is critical that the IEP Team works with the child to understand and address the root cause of the child's refusal.

Myth 18. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

When children are using their own devices for AT, there is less responsibility on the school or educator.

FACT

AT devices and services written into the IEP are the responsibility of the LEA. There may be flexibility if the parent and the LEA agree on using a child's device instead of using an LEA's AT device.

Myth 19. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT DEPLOYING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

Buying AT devices takes a long time and won't give timely services to the child as required.

FACT

IDEA requires that as soon as possible following the development of the IEP, special education and related services are made available to the child in accordance with the child's IEP. This includes AT devices if they are required as part of the child's special education or related services.

Myth 20. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT DEPLOYING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

All AT devices must be approved by an LEA's information technology (IT) department.

FACT

The IEP Team makes the determination on what AT device and service is necessary to meet the child's needs.

Myth 21. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT DEPLOYING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

Only staff who specialize in AT can deploy AT devices or provide AT services.

FACT

IDEA requires the IEP Team to have representatives of the LEA who are qualified to provide or supervise the provision of specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of children with disabilities.

Myth 22. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT DEPLOYING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES

MYTH

There are no resources available to LEAs who can provide technical assistance on AT devices (e.g., loaning and testing of AT devices).

FACT

Every State has a State or Territory AT program that can provide device demonstrations and device loans to LEAs so they may evaluate an AT device's effectiveness prior to purchasing

Myth 23. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part C Of The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

MYTH

Infants, toddlers, and their families do not benefit from AT devices and services.

FACT

AT devices and services can and often do support infants, toddlers, and their families in meeting the developmental needs of an infant or toddler with a disability and the needs of the family to assist appropriately in the infant's or toddler's development.

Myth 24. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part B Of The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

MYTH

IDEA Part C does not contain any provisions regarding AT devices or services.

FACT

Both the IDEA and its implementing regulations include AT devices and services as an early intervention service.

Myth 25. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part C Of The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

MYTH

AT does not need to be considered when a toddler transitions from early intervention services to special education services at the preschool level.

FACT

AT must be considered when a toddler is transitioning from early intervention services to preschool, regardless of whether the child currently receives AT services through an IFSP

Myth 26. Assistive Technology Requirements Under Part C Of The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act

MYTH

State lead agencies and EIS providers are not eligible to access technical assistance from State AT programs.

FACT

State AT programs serve all individuals of any age, including infants and toddlers, and with any type of disability.

Myth 27. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY COSTS AND FUNDING SOURCES

MYTH

AT is expensive.

FACT

While some AT may be expensive, there are many forms of AT devices and services with little to no cost.

Myth 28. COMMON MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY COSTS AND FUNDING SOURCES

MYTH

There are limited funding sources for AT devices and services.

FACT

There are multiple funding sources for AT devices and services (IDEA Part C grants for infants & toddlers; Part B grants for K-12).

Questions?

THANK YOU!

Don.McMahon@wsu.edu
ahollingshead@uidaho.edu